

March Study Newsletter

The update to the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) Guidelines is in the fourth full month and we are turning our attention to preparation of the new guidelines. The study team has packed in a lot of activities including preparation of two documents and continued coordination with key stakeholders. Looking ahead, we are scheduled to finalize the Interim Technical Bulletin and Existing Assessment by the end of this month. Additionally, we will be developing the overall framework for the new guidelines and finalizing a draft in early April.

Document Development

Two key documents, Existing Assessment and Interim Technical Bulletin, were developed over the previous month. The Existing Assessment provides a summary of findings from the review of the existing policies and guidelines, and the insight and feedback collected from the various stakeholder groups. In addition to providing documentation of the findings, this document serves as the justification for the guideline revisions.

The second document developed is the Interim Technical Bulletin. The purpose of the Interim Technical Bulletin is to clarify and document the existing expectations of NDOT staff. The Bulletin will not be issuing new requirements but clarifying the expectations that already exist from NDOT staff. The following topics are covered in the Bulletin: thresholds, alternative modes, consideration of planned projects, safety considerations, and points of contact.

Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder feedback from an internal and external standpoint is critical to the success of this project. Having a full and transparent understanding of existing challenges and future needs lays the groundwork for the future guidelines. As we transition into new guideline development, involving the stakeholders in that development process will be equally as important. The following formal and informal stakeholder meetings have taken place since last month's newsletter:

- **Metro Planning:** The project team provided Metro Planning staff with a study update and an opportunity to provide feedback on their critical concerns as it relates to items the future guidelines need to address.
- **Michael Briggs, Vanderbilt University:** A specific one on one meeting was held with Michael Briggs due to his role with Vanderbilt and his institutional knowledge of the TIS process. Michael provided some great insight about improvements which have been long discussed amongst Metro staff.
- **Leadership Update Meeting:** The project team met with NDOT and Metro leadership to provide an update on the progress and direction of the update. Important feedback was received on content, code changes, incentives, data, and key stakeholders that must be engaged over the next month.

The team will continue with small group and one on one meetings in addition to the formal stakeholder meeting planned for this spring.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

The following key activities are ongoing:

Continued Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement will continue throughout the study largely through small group meetings with specific interests internally and externally. As the project team transitions to the new guidelines these meetings will focus on defining the specific elements of the new guidelines and building a consensus around the changes.

New Guideline Development

Through a detailed technical review and feedback from local stakeholders, the project team has identified numerous opportunities to bring NDOT's guidelines to be in better alignment with the vision for Nashville's future transportation network and to better define the process and requirements for developers. Much of the effort will be focused on developing a consensus on the elements of the new guidelines and preparing the draft document. With a goal of meeting again with stakeholders in April, the draft guideline document will need to be ready by early next month.

Staying Connected to the Study

A [project webpage](#) has been set up to share information with the public about this study. While we will mainly be reaching out to stakeholders through professional organizations, there is a contact form on the website to sign up for direct e-mails on feedback opportunities and updates.

For NDOT and Nashville Metro staff, we will be sending out monthly e-mail updates on the status of the study and upcoming activities so you can stay informed on the progress of this exciting project.

If you have additional questions or want to discuss any element further, please reach out to NDOT Project Manager Melisa Hancock at melisa.hancock@nashville.gov or (615) 862-5056.